

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 03296 081737Z

43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /097 W

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O R 081640Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3632

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN GOVERNMENT CRISIS

DIA FOR A2 AND DI5

REF: ROME 3229

1. HAVING RECEIVED FULL APPROVAL FOR HIS PROGRAM FROM DC
DIRECTORATE AND PARLIMENTARY LEADERSHIP MARCH 7, PRIME MINISTER
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RUMOR MET SEPARATELY WITH REPUBLICAN AND SOCIAL DOMOCRAT

NEGOTIATING TEAMS THIS MORNING MARCH 8. HE IS SCHEDULED TO RECEIVE SOCIALISTS AND HIS FELLOW CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT REPRESENTATIVES TONIGHT, MARCH 8, AND HAS CALLED ROUND-TABLE CONCLAVE OF ALL FOUR PROSPECTIVE CENTER-LEFT PARTNERS FOR SATURDAY, MARCH 9.

2. UPON EMERGING FROM TWO HOUR SESSION WITH RUMOR, REPUBLICAN PARTY NEGOTIATIONS DECLARED THEY TOLD RUMOR THAT SHOULD PRI REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION IN NEW GOVERNMENT BY ALL FOUR PARTY SECRETARIES NOT BE MET, "OUR PARTY COULD NOT GO BEYOND EXTERNAL SUPPORT, AS A CONTRIBUTION TO A RAPID CONCLUSION OF THE CRISIS AND TO THE SALVATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC FRAMEWORK." FOLLOWING THEIR MEETING WITH RUMOR, SOCIAL DEMOCRAT LEADERSHIP INDICATED THEY CONTINUE TO BELIEVE FOUR-PARTY GOVERNMENT IS OPTIMUM SOLUTION AND HOPED PRI COULD YET BE PURSUADED TO PARTICIPATE. PSDI PRESIDENT TANASSI STRESSED NEED FOR STABLE GOVERNMENT CAPABLE OF LASTING BEYOND DIVORCE REFERENDUM AND NOTED THAT, ALTHOUGH ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES ARE PREEMINENT, CENTER-LEFT PARTIES MUST ALSO FACE UP TO OTHER CRUCIAL ISSUES, SUCH AS PUBLIC ORDER AND CURRENT POLITICAL SCANDALS.

3. AS DESCRIBED TO DC GROUPS YESTERDAY, RUMOR'S PROPOSED PROGRAM INCLUDES LANGUAGE CALCULATED TO APPEAL BOTH TO REPUBLICANS AND TO SOCIALISTS, AND THUS REPRESENTS MIDDLE GROUND POSITION DC HAS CONSTANTLY STEERED BETWEEN THEIR TWO VIEWPOINTS. HOWEVER, IT LACKS HARD FIGURES NEEDED TO GIVE IT ANY REAL ECONOMIC MEANING. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERIM GOVERNMENT, COALITION GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL STABILITY, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, REORGANIZATIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ROME03296
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740357/aaaacbh0.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ROME 3229
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <04 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ITALIAN GOVERNMENT CRISIS DIA FOR A2 AND DI5
TAGS: PINT, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005